



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

Via Electronic Filing  
Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Honorable Julius Genachowski,


The FCC's National Broadband Plan makes great strides towards addressing public safety's broadband communications needs. However, we want to call your attention to several important and urgent items pending before the Commission and request your support in resolving them as quickly as possible.

As you know, Fairfax County submitted a Waiver request in June 2010 to allow us to deploy a public safety wireless broadband network. We were very encouraged when the Commission recently released the pending waivers for comment in November and were equally encouraged when there was overwhelming support for their approval by the vast majority of respondents. Unfortunately our waiver has not been approved to date, and we continue to experience on-going issues in using public commercial broadband services which have routinely interrupted our first responder operations. We note that the Commission approved 21 waiver requests earlier in 2010 and there are no material differences between those requests and ours.

Further, we understand that concerns remain over federal funding for governmentally deployed public safety networks. Fairfax County, like governments throughout our nation is experiencing fiscal challenges, but we understand that the FCC's plan for public safety broadband deployment accounts for this by calling for diverse build models such as leveraging commercial carrier infrastructures, and public/private partnerships. While these models may not result in total network build out, they can pave the way for comprehensive network build out once federal funding is finalized. Fairfax County VA has immediate plans to release a procurement for the first phase of our 700MHz wireless broadband network and we respectfully urge the Commission's approval of our request for a Waiver, which is under consideration. We are designing our network plans consistent with the Commission's national broadband plan and are anxious to start to strengthen our public safety communications capabilities before we mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9-11 tragedy later this year.

Thank you for your continued leadership and support of improved public safety communications. With your help and the timely response of the Commission, we will succeed at providing improved communications for public safety professionals that can be counted on for effective emergency response.

Sincerely,

  
Anthony H. Griffin  
County Executive

cc FCC Commissioners  
FCC Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau

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